

trust, he must be transparent. We need a bipartisan, independent investigation of his conflicts of interest, particularly with Russia, but not exclusively. He must release his tax returns, and he must fully separate himself from his business dealings.

The corrupt practices of this administration must stop. Our country and our Constitution demand nothing less.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), my good friend, the Assistant Democratic Leader.

HONORING VOORHEES COLLEGE AND DENMARK
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to continue honoring HBCUs, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, for their significant contributions to our Nation's history.

While only 3 percent of our Nation's higher education institutions are Historically Black, HBCUs produce 20 percent of the African-American college graduates. Today, I recognize and celebrate two of the seven HBCUs in my congressional district, Voorhees College and Denmark Technical College, both in Denmark, South Carolina.

Voorhees College was founded as Denmark Industrial School in 1897 by Elizabeth Evelyn Wright when she was just 23 years old. Wright studied at Tuskegee Institute and was a devotee of Booker T. Washington. She had previously led efforts to start schools for African Americans in South Carolina, which were always met with arson and threats of violence. She persisted in her efforts to offer African Americans an opportunity for a better life and, with Voorhees, created an institution that would stand the test of time.

Wright originally taught classes in an old store in Denmark, but, in 1902, New Jersey philanthropist Ralph Voorhees donated money to purchase land and construct a building for the school. A high school at first, Voorhees offered classes at this level for African Americans in the area.

In 1924, the Episcopal Church partnered with Voorhees, and an affiliation with that church continues to this day. The college began to offer junior college degrees in 1947 and 4-year degrees in 1962. While originally founded on the principles of Booker T. Washington to teach job and trade skills to African Americans, Voorhees now proudly claims to offer a blend of Washington's philosophy and that of W. E. B. Du Bois, who believed a classical liberal arts education was vital to the development of African Americans.

The college's recently retired president, Dr. Cleveland Sellers, is a Denmark native who graduated from Voorhees High School. Sellers went on to Howard University, where he became active with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, participating in its 1966 March against Fear.

In 1968, after returning to South Carolina, Sellers was arrested and imprisoned for supposedly inciting the confrontation between students and po-

lice that became known as the Orangeburg massacre, when police opened fire on students, killing 3 and injuring 27.

Voorhees' College's new president, Dr. W. Franklin Evans, previously served as interim president of my alma mater, South Carolina State. In that role, he successfully led South Carolina State out of a financial crisis. I sincerely believe that Voorhees College is well-positioned for the future with Dr. Evans at its helm.

Denmark Technical College, whose campus is adjacent to Voorhees, was originally a branch of the South Carolina Trade School System. It was created in 1948 by the South Carolina General Assembly and mandated to provide trade skills to African Americans. During the "separate but equal" era, Denmark Tech was one of the few opportunities for trade school education offered to African Americans by the State.

In the early 1960s, Governor Fritz Hollings and then-Senator John West led the effort to create the South Carolina Technical College System. In 1969, the existing trade school in Denmark was transferred into the system and the modern Denmark Technical College was created. Its total enrollment is approximately 2,000, 96 percent of whom are minority students. Denmark Tech continues to provide technical education and trade skills in its assigned region of Bamberg, Barnwell, and Allendale Counties.

Voorhees College and Denmark Technical College, like their fellow HBCUs, have made an indelible impact on their communities, South Carolina, and the Nation. They have provided generations of African Americans educational opportunities, and I look forward to their continued success.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, we should be joined momentarily by Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE. I want to close out, though, my own thoughts by responding to something I have been hearing over the last week here in the Halls of Congress.

Now that it is clear from our intelligence agencies, 16 of them, including the CIA, the FBI, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and so on, that Vladimir Putin had a deliberate campaign of espionage, cyber sabotage, propaganda, and fake news to undermine American democracy in the 2016 election, and now that it is clear that there were high-level contacts between Trump associates and officials of the Russian Government, it is no longer being denied by anybody on either side of the aisle. What I have started to hear is, well, sure, they tried to hack our election, and, sure, they leaked thousands of emails, and, sure, they changed the dynamics of the campaign and what people were talking about in the campaign, but there is no proof that they stuffed any ballot boxes or they hacked into the computers. And that is true; we don't know that they stuffed any ballot boxes or hacked into computers,

and we will have to see if anything comes out about that when we finally get to do a real comprehensive investigation. But, Mr. Speaker, the reality is that we should be terrified and appalled and outraged that they were allowed to go as far as they did.

How many people in this body would accept a foreign entity coming into our congressional districts and spending millions or hundreds of thousands of dollars against us, hacking into our computers, releasing our emails, and completely changing the dynamics of the campaign?

So when I hear from colleagues that, well, yes, they distorted the campaign, they hacked into the campaign, but they didn't steal the election, I think that they are making a distinction with no difference at all. If you derail the campaign, you kidnap the campaign, you hijack the campaign, you have altered the outcome of the election, especially one in which your opponent gets 2.9 million votes more than you did, especially in an election where you were able to torture out only the slenderest of electoral college victories in three States by 70,000 votes.

□ 1730

So I simply reject the constant claim that I am hearing from colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that we don't need to worry about Russian subversion of the 2016 election because it only affected the campaign; it didn't necessarily affect the election outcome. To influence the campaign is to influence the election outcome.

Mr. Speaker, I am seeing Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE is not here, so I yield back the balance of my time.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, we see so much on TV. I was watching the President's press conference a little while ago. We see so much discord out there, and this opportunity that we have in the afternoon to really delve deep into the issues is so valuable to me. It is one of the only opportunities that the American people get to see us delving deeply into the issues.

You and I know that we are in the committee room, we are behind closed doors in a bipartisan way grappling with all of the hardest issues that face American families, but folks don't see it and they don't feel it. Why it is we celebrate the discord instead of celebrating the discourse is a mystery to me.

I bring, Mr. Speaker, today some stories about the Affordable Care Act from my district at home. It is not going to be a surprise to you that these are stories of challenges.

In Cumming, Georgia—it is up in Forsyth County, Georgia, just north of

Atlanta—I heard from a single mom. She has two kids, ages 11 and 13. They have a family physician that they want to hang on to.

She says: I work part-time as a paralegal. I earn \$25,000 a year, and I also receive child support payments.

She said that she was encouraged by a health insurance company to go out and enroll in Medicaid instead, but neither of her children's doctors accept Medicaid.

How often do we hear that?

The solution for everything is to dump everyone into Medicaid. Medicaid is not a healthcare system. It is a healthcare payment system. You have to find a doctor who will accept a payment. This young woman's doctors do not.

She said she went on healthcare.gov, filled out an application, and was offered a plan for \$464 a month with a \$12,600 deductible. She makes \$25,000 a year, and what we have offered her is a \$500-a-month policy, \$464 a month, with a \$12,000 deductible. That is not affordable, she said. She called an insurance broker and looked for a similar policy. They were priced the same way.

She said: I have decided to pay the ObamaCare fines instead.

Mr. Speaker, I tell this story because I know that every single Member of this body wants to serve the constituency that sent them here. Every single Member of this body wants to find solutions for folks back home.

As we look at the numbers across the country, we find that more Americans that we purported to help with the Affordable Care Act have decided to pay a fine instead of join the exchange system.

Mr. Speaker, we have more Americans opting out of the system than opting into the system because we have failed those very people we purported to help.

From Buford, Georgia, Mr. Speaker: I'm a full-time student with a part-time job that doesn't offer health or dental insurance. I can't get health insurance through my parents because they are on Medicare. I shopped for health plans, but all of the ones on the exchange are out of my budget. I shouldn't have to pay a fine because I can't afford health care.

Now, think about that, Mr. Speaker. This young student says: I shouldn't have to pay a fine because I can't afford the health care. If I can't afford the health care, I certainly can't afford the fine.

These are the people that we purported to help with the Affordable Care Act, and they are not being served.

Back in Cumming, Georgia, Mr. Speaker: Today I have been in my office for hours trying to find affordable health care that accommodates my primary care physician. Prices start for me at \$750-plus. Before ObamaCare, I was paying \$365 with more access to doctors.

It is not just about the money, Mr. Speaker. These networks, as you know,

are closing. More than one-third of the counties in America have no choice of insurance whatsoever. The networks are narrowing. Folks are not just finding it hard to pay for care, but they are finding it hard to choose their physician.

A retired couple in Peachtree Corners, Mr. Speaker: I retired last year, and my husband retired this year. Both of us are in our sixties. We knew we would have to pay a lot for health insurance, but I was stunned when we signed up for the Affordable Care Act to the tune of more than \$1,200 per month. I recently received a notice from our insurer that premiums for 2017 will go to over \$2,000 per month.

This family played by the rules their entire life, Mr. Speaker. They retired, needed access to health care, and went to the exchanges that were purported to help people find affordable health care. They found a \$1,200-a-month policy that this year rises to \$2,000 a month.

I say this to the young people planning for their retirement and thinking about putting something away for a rainy day: This couple pays \$2,000 a month simply for their premium.

Another family in Cumming, Georgia, Mr. Speaker: Six years ago, we had a perfectly acceptable high-deductible plan with an HSA for \$300 a month. As ObamaCare has been implemented, it has gone from \$300 to \$450 to \$950 per month, and our only remaining option is a \$1,450-per-month plan that provides effectively the same coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I added that one because these folks weren't looking for help. These folks weren't uninsured. These folks didn't have a problem finding insurance. They had it under control themselves. In the name of helping the uninsured, the Affordable Care Act came in, re-regulated the entire insurance industry, even for people who already had health care, and drove this family's premiums from \$300 a month to \$1,400 a month.

Mr. Speaker, who defends these things? Who defends these things?

I tell you, I will not have a colleague from the Democratic side or the Republican side who would say that any of these consequences were intended when the Affordable Care Act was passed. They might have been inevitable, but they were not intended.

So we can agree there is a problem. We can agree there is a problem. And if you don't think that we can agree, let me refer first to former President Barack Obama. Just last fall, he said this: Despite this progress, too many Americans still strain to pay for their physician visits and prescriptions, cover their deductibles or pay their monthly insurance bills. They struggle to navigate a complex, sometimes bewildering system, and they remain uninsured.

That's right. They remain uninsured. The trillion-plus dollars that we spent to solve the issue of the uninsured solved nothing. We continue to have a

problem with the uninsured, yet we have added problems to those who are insured.

Democratic Governor Mark Dayton from Minnesota in October of last year, Mr. Speaker: The reality is the Affordable Care Act is no longer affordable.

The reality is the Affordable Care Act is no longer affordable—these are words of folks who supported the Affordable Care Act.

Former President Bill Clinton: "So you've got this crazy system where all of a sudden 25 million more people have health care and then the people who are out there busting it, sometimes 60 hours a week, wind up with their premiums doubled with their coverage cut in half. It's the craziest thing in the world."

There is a group of people, mostly small-business owners and employees, who make just a little too much to qualify for Medicaid expansion or for the tax incentives who can't get Affordable Care Act premiums in a lot of places.

Former President Bill Clinton says that there are guys out there busting 60 hours a week trying to make it work for their families, and we have failed them.

It is not that they had a problem to begin with. Many of these folks had insurance that they liked to begin with. We failed them when we re-regulated them into problems instead of solving problems.

Mr. Speaker, the broken promises began right away. You will remember the fact check organization that named "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan" as the Lie of the Year.

Overpromising and underdelivering has been the nature of ObamaCare. We were promised premiums would decline by \$2,500. The average family premium has increased by \$4,300. We were promised the cost of health care would go down, but deductibles have risen more than 60 percent. We were promised you can keep your doctor, but 70 percent of us find ourselves in narrower networks today than we did before. Middle class Americans were promised we wouldn't see a tax increase, but as we just heard from this young student, when you can't find a plan that meets your needs, then you are fined by the IRS. You are paying taxes right then.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not blaming these systemic problems on President Obama. I am not blaming these systemic problems on the Affordable Care Act. What I am doing is pointing out that we passed the Affordable Care Act with \$1 trillion in new tax increases and with a re-regulation of all of the insurance plans that people liked before in the name of solving these problems, which we did not solve.

I will take you to my home State of Georgia, Mr. Speaker. On average, 32 percent is the increase that we are seeing in premiums on our exchange—32 percent this year alone. Of the folks

who are participating in the exchange, Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of them receive a government subsidy.

Let me say that again: Of the folks who participate in the \$1 trillion Affordable Care Act exchange program in the State of Georgia, 80 percent of them do so because the government is paying for their health care. That is a pretty good incentive to get in the system. If you're going to get a subsidy payment, folks are in the system. Eighty percent require that subsidy in order to be enticed into the system.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, more people rejected going into the system opting instead for no health care than went into the system with the Affordable Care Act.

The average wage earner in Georgia, Mr. Speaker, gets no subsidy from the government. Four hundred percent of the poverty line, as you know, is where that subsidy kicks in. That is about \$48,000 a year in the State of Georgia. I am telling you, if you earn \$48,000 a year, you have bills, obligations, and responsibilities, and you find yourself in one of these \$2,000-a-month premium situations that this retired couple in Georgia did, you cannot afford health insurance—or at least you cannot afford the health insurance that the government today is requiring that you have.

Let's think about those requirements, Mr. Speaker. The government, in its wisdom, decided it was going to force folks into plans that it deemed appropriate. Many of those came in the form of healthcare CO-OPs. It was certainly a reasonable idea: let's allow folks in States back home to join together and provide health insurance.

We sucked folks into those CO-OPs, Mr. Speaker. Again, an unsustainable system, this death spiral of ObamaCare. One million folks were sucked into CO-OPs that went belly up, Mr. Speaker. They lost their insurance once when ObamaCare came into business, and they lost their insurance again when these CO-OPs failed.

As you can see on this map, the orange CO-OPs have failed. Only a few remain in business today. It remains to be seen if they will make it through the year.

When we talk about choice, Mr. Speaker, five States have only one insurer in the exchange. That was the whole point of the exchange. That is why we spent literally billions upon billions to set up these exchanges so that consumers could compare and choose.

Now, two things went wrong. Number one, we set up this list of mandates that every insurance plan had to comply with, which disincentivized folks to join those plans to begin with. Then, number two, by setting up what you had to have in a plan, you, by definition, restricted the choice of individuals to choose what they want. So you end up with five States with only one insurer under ObamaCare.

Now, that is before the announcement this week from Humana that it is

withdrawing from all of the ObamaCare plans at the end of 2017. That was before the announcement this week from the Aetna CEO that he sees the death spiral that ObamaCare is involved in—his words—and it remains to be seen whether they will participate next year or not.

I don't need to find consensus among 218 Members or even 435 Members about whether or not ObamaCare is succeeding or failing.

□ 1745

What I need is for folks to look at the 19 million uninsured Americans who had an opportunity to go into this trillion-dollar system; an opportunity to reach for the golden ring, as it was described by its authors and its proponents, and they said: No. They said: It doesn't work for me. They said: It is not the right thing for me. They said: It doesn't fit into my families' needs and desires and expectations.

Of these 19 million, Mr. Speaker, 6.5 million paid a tax penalty. That is 6.5 million Americans failed by their government in a trillion-dollar healthcare regulation, failed by their government in an expansion through ObamaCare and Medicaid, and failed by their government yet again when they received a bill because the trillion-dollar program we put together didn't work for them and their families.

Can't we agree that if our goal was to solve the problem of the uninsured American, having 19 million Americans who would rather stay uninsured than participate in the Affordable Care Act is the definition of failure?

We can do better. There is a better way, Mr. Speaker, let there be no mistake about that.

I know there is a lot of anxiety out there. I don't want to minimize that. Fear is a corrosive emotion to have. I want to do my very best to allay the fear of anyone in America, Mr. Speaker, who is benefiting from the Affordable Care Act. As these numbers have demonstrated, there are not many. But if you spend a trillion dollars and re-regulate an entire industry, I certainly hope there is at least one family out there who got something out of it. I know that there are.

I quote GREG WALDEN, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Speaker, who, as you know, has wide jurisdiction for re-regulating health care. He says this in January of this year: "We want to make sure that people with pre-existing conditions continue to get covered."

Mr. Speaker, it is a myth that Congress didn't care about preexisting conditions. It was Republicans in Congress, led by Republican Newt Gingrich of the great State of Georgia, who abolished preexisting conditions in every federally regulated plan back in 1996. He did that in partnership with Bill Clinton.

What you have heard from our chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee is that we are committed to

dealing with preexisting conditions. Take that anxiety off your list.

From Tom Price, now the Secretary of Health and Human Services: "Nobody is interested in pulling the rug out from anybody."

We believe that it is absolutely imperative that individuals who have health care be able to keep health coverage and move, hopefully, to greater choices and opportunity for them to gain the kind of coverage that they want for themselves and their families.

There has been a lot of talk about individuals losing health care. That is not our goal, nor is it our desire, nor is it our plan. The new Secretary of Health and Human Services said that this year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to overpromise and underdeliver. ObamaCare is failing. The exchanges are failing. Insurance companies are leaving. Plans are being canceled.

I am not saying that if you like your plan, you can keep it. Your plan may be one of the overly regulated, overly priced plans that is collapsing across this country. What I am saying to you is, our commitment is to help and not hurt in that area.

I cannot prevent ObamaCare from failing. I cannot prevent your plan from going away, but I can provide an off ramp for you and your family so that you can find, as Secretary Price says, better choices and better opportunities.

From the United States Senate, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL: "There will be a stable transition period, and once repeal is passed we will turn to replacement policies that cost less and work better than what we have now."

Some contend that, by fulfilling our promise to the American people, we are somehow going to go back to the way things were before ObamaCare, which we all know is untrue.

If your family grappled with preexisting conditions because your State didn't address it the same way the Federal Government did back in 1996—folks are committed, if you are playing by the rules, to stick with you and your family through this transition.

If your family benefits from the raising of the lifetime caps that was a part of the Affordable Care Act, you have won that debate. You needn't worry as we go through this transition.

If you like the fact that your kids are unemployed and staying on your policy until they are 26 years old, I think you have won that debate. I think that is absolutely going to be a part of that conversation in this transition.

If you have a fear, if you have a worry, if you have a concern, I don't want to minimize it. I want to allay it. But come and share it with your Member of Congress, share it with your United States Senator. We have a group of leaders committed to addressing those concerns.

Finally, PAUL RYAN, our Speaker of the House: "We can and should have a

system in this country where everybody can have access to affordable health care, including people with pre-existing conditions.”

There are things that unite us in this body, and one of those things is caring for people, caring about people, wanting folks to get a fair shake. If you have played by the rules, you deserve a fair shake. That brings us all together in this institution.

I don’t want any family to find themselves in fear that they are being forgotten in this transition, but there is a very real fear that, if you are in an Affordable Care Act plan today, that plan will fail.

Mr. Speaker, there are two things we can do. We can pretend that failure is not imminent. You can look at all the insurers withdrawing from ObamaCare, you can look at all of the rate increases going up in double digits, you can look at all of the folks who are opting out because it has gotten too expensive and doesn’t serve their families’ needs.

You can see the failure of ObamaCare. But the number of options that we have, the number of plans under discussion to replace it is numerous, Mr. Speaker. We have got the Better Way healthcare plan, we have got the American Health Care Reform Act, we have got the Empowering Patients First, we have got our Rules Committee chairman’s The World’s Great Healthcare Plan Act, the Patient Freedom Act, the ObamaCare Replacement Act.

Mr. Speaker, we have options. To begin to get to those options, we need to be honest with ourselves, whether we opposed ObamaCare from the beginning or whether we hoped it was going to be the best thing since sliced bread, that ObamaCare has failed.

With that recognition, we can repeal those costly mandates, we can repeal those constrictive agreements, we can repeal those things that have isolated us from choice, that have separated us from our doctors, and we can begin to restore a patient-centered, family first system.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that you are a smart man. I have no doubt that you work hard from dawn to dusk every day. But no matter how hard you work, I promise you that you will not know better than the families in my district which healthcare plan is best for them, and I appreciate you not trying to second guess them.

I cannot make everybody in America happy, Mr. Speaker, but I can give everybody in America the choice to make themselves happy. I can’t empower families in America to make their own choices, their own decisions about what works best for them.

Put your mind at ease. For folks who have concerns, we hear you. For folks who have been hurt, we are coming for you. And for folks who know there is a better way, we stand with you.

It is going to be a long spring and summer, Mr. Speaker, because this is

only heavy lifting, but it is the right thing to do, and we have got the right group of men and women here to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

FRIDAY NIGHT IN CAIRO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, as we gather tonight in the historic House Chamber, where so much of our Nation’s history has been debated and dispatched, it is good to hear my friend from Georgia talk about the challenges that face our country with the failure of the Affordable Care Act and his thoughtful presentation on just precisely what we need to do to save Americans from the failures of this bad law.

It is an honor to be in the historic House Chamber where every day the distinguished lawgivers in our history look down on this Chamber. George Mason, who wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights, looks down on the Speaker’s dais, as does Thomas Jefferson, the author of our Declaration of Independence.

No speaker stands at the dais and addresses the people’s House without the steely gaze of Moses, the ultimate, most revered lawmaker, Mr. Speaker. He looks down on you and on this Chamber for truth and justice.

Mr. Speaker, we Americans work hard. We work hard every day of the week, and we love Friday. We love Fridays so much that we say: Thank God it’s Friday. Over the years, TGIF has become not only something that everyone in our country who works hard recognizes, but it became the name of a popular restaurant.

In the autumn, we love our Friday nights watching high school football. In the winter, maybe it is catching a movie and eating a pizza with our friends or family. In the spring, Friday can find us catching a baseball game, the American pastime.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday night, I was in Cairo, Egypt, and what I saw was that same joyous, happy experience of families sharing their successes of the week; celebrating a great soccer victory; clapping to wonderful, warm local music; and witnessing the squealing of their kids running around their parents, celebrating a birthday or just a good week at work or school.

The streets of the Khan el-Khalili Bazaar in Cairo were chock-full last Friday, Mr. Speaker, with the living and the loving, just going about that weekly experience pursuing their own version of happiness and TGIF.

Friday night in Cairo, the land of the Pharaoh, the land of the beginning of much of human education and civilization, there was dining and bargaining in the bizarre that has been the centerpiece of trading and manufacturing and merchandising for half a millennia.

Mr. Speaker, my trip to Egypt was marked not just with witnessing the joy of Egyptian family life and seeing and sharing what we have in common. It was a reminder that the 91 million Egyptians are on the front line of the global war on terror, a war that unites the leadership of Egypt and the United States arm-in-arm to design and implement the most effective strategies we can to defeat the malevolent evil enemy of ISIS, al-Qaida, Boko Haram, and their bloody cohorts across the globe.

In my view, after the approach of the past 8 years, our enemies are stronger and engaged more broadly than ever before. Nothing has driven this point home more than a visit in Cairo to the St. Peter and St. Paul’s Coptic Church.

Located on the plaza adjacent to the offices of His Holiness Coptic Pope Tawadros II, there was joy there last Saturday morning, Mr. Speaker, listening to the chants of the priests, the reverence of the families in the pews, the kids again squealing and smiling in their parents’ arms.

But, Mr. Speaker, on the periphery of that joy was a stark reminder of the destruction there on December 11, when a male ISIS jihadist suicide bomber entered that church disguised as a woman and detonated his vest, murdering 25, mostly women, splattering the walls and the floors of God’s House with their blood.

As I walked through that same entrance last Saturday, Mr. Speaker, the church has developed a reverent shrine to those who were lost. The pockmarks in the marble are there from the shrapnel from the vest.

□ 1800

But that church is a symbol of unity in Egypt, not division, as it was visited by President el-Sisi, a devout Muslim leader of all Egyptians, who came to share his concern, his affection for Egyptians no matter what their religious background. Best summarized by the wise Pope of the Coptic church—Mr. Speaker, we have to remind ourselves that the word “Coptic,” of course, comes from the Greek word “aigyptios,” which means Egypt. The Coptic church is as old as St. Mark’s arrival in Alexandria in the first century.

That wise old Pope told us, and I think really, Mr. Speaker, captured the whole spirit of the Egyptian people and the resolve that is taking place in that country under President el-Sisi when he said, Egyptians take two things from the Nile River on which they have lived some 5,000 years. They take water, and they take moderation in their beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I wanted to come to the House Chamber and pay tribute to the Egyptian people for being on those front lines in the fight against radical Islamic terrorism, pay tribute to the Christian and Muslim people of Egypt working together to defeat this ideology. I want to commend President el-Sisi for his courageous leadership in the Muslim world.